

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2043

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: CINCHAN PRESENTATION TO MARCH NATO JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-
ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE (NJCEC) PLENARY

REF: TELECON: RADM FARRELL, J-6 EUCOM AND MR NORMAN GRAY,
USNATO APR 16.

AS REQUESTED IN REF TELECON, SELECTED EXCERPTS ON MESSAGE TRAFFIC
DELAYS TAKEN FROM CINCHAN BRIEFING TO MARCH 1974 NJCEC PLENARY
FOLLOW:

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

IN A REAL TIME NATO WAR OR PERIOD OF TENSION, THE PRESENT
NATO MILITARY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS WOULD BE SO OVERLOADED AS TO
MAKE EFFECTIVE COMMAND AND CONTROL IMPOSSIBLE,
BECAUSE MESSAGES JUST DO NOT GET THROUGH TO THEIR DESTINATION
ON TIME. THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN RECENT EXERCISES
KNOW THAT AN IMMEDIATE MESSAGE CAN OFTEN TAKE TWENTY FOUR
HOURS FROM ONE MNC TO ANOTHER,
AND A FLASH MESSAGE CAN TAKE SEVEN HOURS FROM BRUSSELS TO UK.

IN A RECENT REPORT A MARITIME COMMANDER STATED QUOTE "ANALYSIS
OF RECENT EXERCISES HAVE SHOWN THAT NATO UNITS AT SEA WOULD HAVE
BEEN DESTROYED BY ENEMY MISSILES BECAUSE COMMANDERS ON THE SPOT
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WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED TIMELY REVISION OF THE RULES OF
ENGAGEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THEM TIME TO TAKE PRE-EMPTIVE
ACTION." UNQUOTE.

IN WINTEX 71 WE HANDLED AT NORTHWOOD ONE THOUSAND MESSAGES A DAY IN AND OUT OF THE OPERATIONS ROOM. UP TO THEN WE'D BEEN PLANNING ON AN AVERAGE INCREASE IN MESSAGE TRAFFIC OF FIFTEEN PERCENT A YEAR. BUT WINTEX 73 GAVE US A SHOCK - TWO THOUSAND MESSAGES A DAY INTO AND OUT OF THE OPERATIONS CENTRE - A RECORD INCREASE OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT IN TWO YEARS.

WE THOUGHT THAT WAS A UNIQUE SITUATION - AND INDEED I ACTUALLY TRIED TO EXPLAIN IT FOR NORTHWOOD IN TERMS OF THE COMPLEX OF COMMANDS THAT EXISTED THERE.

BUT MORE STATISTICS ARE COMING TO LIGHT WHICH INDICATE THAT A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT INCREASE OVER TWO YEARS IS NOT A UNIQUE FIGURE, AND THAT MESSAGE INFLATION IS INCREASING AT A FASTER RATE THAN MANY OF US MAY SUSPECT.

COMNAV SOUTH HAS JUST PUBLISHED HIS TRAFFIC STATISTICS FOR A LIVE EXERCISE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - DAWN PATROL 73. IN DAWN PATROL 71 THE AVERAGE MESSAGE TRAFFIC WAS SIX THOUSAND MESSAGES A DAY, IN DAWN PATROL 73 AN AVERAGE OF THIRTEEN THOUSAND, AGAIN A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT INCREASE IN TWO YEARS. END EXCERPTS.
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